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WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI

FOL RPT PARIS 06834 ACTION SECSTATE 8 MAR 77 QUOTE

S E C R E T PARIS 06834

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E.O.11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PFOR VN US
SUBJ: US-VN RELATIONS: PREPARATORY MEETING FOR
PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION VISIT TO HANOI

REF: PARIS 6795

1. MEETING PREPARATORY TO PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION'S
VISIT TO HANOI TOOK PLACE AS SCHEDULED MARCH 8 IN
PARIS AT DCM GAMMON'S RESIDENCE.
2. VIETNAMESE REP TRAN HOAN OPENED WITH PREPARED
STATEMENT REVIEWING VANCE-TRINH CORRESPONDENCE AS
BACKGROUND FOR THIS MEETING DESIGNED TO FACILITATE THE
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UPCOMING COMMISSION'S VISIT TO HANOI. HOAN OUTLINED
HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION OF BEING READY TO DISCUSS
AND SETTLE PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND TO
DISCUSS NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS AS PROVIDED IN THE
PARIS AGREEMENT. HE SAID THE SRV IS PREPARED TO DO
SO WITH GOOD WILL IN REGARD TO THE MIA ISSUE AND OTHER
PROBLEMS OF US CONCERN. HE NOTED THAT THE US SIDE
SHOULD ALSO ADOPT THE SAME ATTITUDE TOWARD ITS
"CONTRIBUTION TO HEAL THE WOUNDS OF WAR" AND THE
"RECONSTRUCTION OF POST-WAR VIETNAM" AND OTHER PROBLEMS

OF CONCERN TO THE SRV.

3. HOAN THEN RAISED SEVERAL POINTS SPECIFICALLY REGARDING THE COMMISSION'S VISIT AND TALKS IN HANOI, AS FOLLOWS:

A) HE ASKED ABOUT TASKS AND MANDATE OF THE COMMISSION, SPECIFICALLY WHETHER IT WOULD HAVE REAL NEGOTIATING POWER OR WOULD BE EMPOWERED MERELY TO SOUND OUT VIETNAMESE AND STUDY PROBLEM. HE ALSO ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE ABLE TO SIGN DOCUMENTS AS PLENIPOTENTIARY.

B) REGARDING PROGRAM AND AGENDA, HOAN ASKED WHAT THE US PROPOSED FOR THE AGENDA, THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS WHICH IT WISHED INSCRIBED ON IT, AND WHETHER THE US IS READY TO DISCUSS RECONSTRUCTION AID AT THE COMMISSION'S MEETINGS WITH SRV OFFICIALS.

C) HE THEN INQUIRED ABOUT HOW THE DISCUSSIONS MIGHT TAKE PLACE AFTER THE AGENDA HAD BEEN FIXED, I.E. IN WHAT ORDER THE DIFFERENT PROBLEMS WOULD BE CONSIDERED, WHICH SIDE WOULD RAISE WHICH PROBLEM FIRST AND WHETHER TO PROCEED SERIATIM OR IN PARALLEL ON THE TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS, MIAS AND AID. HE ALSO NOTED THAT BOTH PARTIES WERE INTERESTED IN NORMALIZATION OF
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RELATIONS AND SAID IT SEEMED TO THE VIETNAMESE THIS PROBLEM COULD BE RAISED AFTER THE DISCUSSION OF THE MIA/AID QUESTIONS.

D) ON OTHER TECHNICAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS, HOAN ASKED WHAT THE COMMISSION HAD IN MIND FOR ITS OTHER ACTIVITIES BESIDES TALKS, I.E. DO THEY WISH TO CALL ON OTHER OFFICIALS, VISIT OTHER AREAS, HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE, ETC.

3. US REP GAMMON THEN GAVE PREPARED STATEMENT DESCRIBING THE ROLE AND MANDATE OF THE COMMISSION. HE INDICATED COMMISSION CHAIRMAN WOODCOCK WOULD BE CARRYING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG, WHICH HE WISHES TO DELIVER PERSONALLY. GAMMON NOTED THAT COMMISSION WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS IN DETAIL THE MIA QUESTION AND WOULD LIKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH APPROPRIATE SRV OFFICIALS FOR THIS PURPOSE, INCLUDING OFFICIALS OF THE AGENCY CONCERNED WITH SEARCHING FOR THE MIA. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD BE PREPARED TO RECEIVE AND REPATRIATE ANY REMAINS AS WELL AS VISIT ANY GRAVE SITES AND WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY TECHNICAL STAFF ON THE VISIT. IN ADDITION, HE REITERATED THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD BE

PREPARED TO RECEIVE SRV VIEWS ON OTHER MATTERS AFFECTING NORMALIZATION AND TO REPORT THEM DIRECTLY AND FAITHFULLY TO THE PRESIDENT UPON RETURN TO THE US.

4. US REP ROSENTHAL MADE BRIEF ADDITIONAL REMARKS TO EMPHASIZE EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH STATURE OF MEMBERS OF COMMISSION AND US INTENTION TO PROCEED IN A MANNER WHICH REFLECTS THE SPIRIT OF SINCERITY AND GOOD WILL WITH WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER IS SEEKING TO RESOLVE MIA ISSUE AND MOVE TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. HE NOTED THAT PRESIDENT HAS STATED PUBLICLY THAT HE IS ENCOURAGED SO FAR BY THE RESPONSE OF SRV GOVERNMENT.

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5. ROSENTHAL THEN RAISED SEVERAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL ISSUES. HE GAVE COMMISSION'S PROPOSED ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES IN HANOI. HE DESCRIBED PROBABLE TYPES OF AIRCRAFT ON WHICH COMMISSION WOULD BE ARRIVING AND ASKED WHETHER LANDING AND OTHER FACILITIES WERE AVAILABLE. HE THEN DESCRIBED ENTIRE US DELEGATION INCLUDING COMMISSION AND STAFF MEMBERS, THEIR REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCOMMODATION, AND ASKED ABOUT DOCUMENTATION. HE SAID IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF SRV COULD PROVIDE INTERPRETERS FOR OFFICIAL MEETINGS AND OTHER SUITABLE OCCASIONS, EVEN THOUGH COMMISSION STAFF WILL INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE VIETNAMESE-SPEAKING OFFICIAL. ROSENTHAL PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF COMMISSION VISIT TO INCLUDE MEETINGS IN MORNING AND AFTERNOON OF MARCH 17, WITH CALLS ON APPROPRIATE SRV OFFICIALS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES MARCH 18. HE NOTED THAT COMMISSION WISHES TO MAKE ONLY THOSE SIDE TRIPS CONSISTENT WITH ITS PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF SEEKING MIA INFORMATION, BUT THAT INDIVIDUAL COMMISSION MEMBERS MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR OTHER TRIPS IF TIME PERMITS.

6. ROSENTHAL ALSO NOTED THAT SINCE ONE OF COMMISSION'S PURPOSES IS TO REPORT DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT IMMEDIATELY ON RETURN TO US, IT WOULD PREFER NOT TO ISSUE A JOINT COMMUNIQUE OR A PRESS STATEMENT AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT. HE PROPOSED INSTEAD SEPARATE PRESS STATEMENTS, WITH DISCUSSION IN ADVANCE ON THEIR GENERAL CONTENT. IN BOTH THIS MATTER AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS DISCUSSED PRECEDING PARAGRAPH, HOAN NODDED GENERAL AGREEMENT AND INDICATED HE WOULD REFER US PROPOSALS TO HANOI.

7. APPROXIMATELY ONE HALF-HOUR TEA BREAK FOLLOWED. GAMMON AND ROSENTHAL TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE INFORMALLY WITH HOAN THE POSSIBILITY OF US PRESS GOING

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TO HANOI TO COVER THE COMMISSION'S VISIT. HOAN RESPONDED THAT THEY HAD ALREADY RECEIVED SOME REQUESTS FROM US NEWSMEN BUT THAT THEIR FACILITIES FOR RECEIVING A LARGE NUMBER OF OUTSIDE PRESS WERE INADEQUATE. HE SAID THE SRV EMBASSY HERE WOULD BE WILLING TO PROPOSE TO HANOI THAT FOUR OR FIVE US NEWSMEN BE ALLOWED TO ENTER HANOI DURING THE VISIT, IF USG COULD PRESENT NAMES OF SUCH NEWSMEN TO THEM. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH SRV FIRST SECRETARY DO THARH, EMBOFF PRATT MADE SAME PITCH AND RECEIVED ESSENTIALLY SAME REPLY. US REPS INDICATED THEY WOULD REFER THIS PROPOSAL TO WASHINGTON.

8. ON RESUMPTION OF FORMAL SESSION, GAMMON LEAD OFF WITH US POSITION THAT THE COMMISSION SAW NO NEED FOR A FORMAL AGENDA. THE COMMISSION WISHED TO SICUSS THE POINTS WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED THEM TO CONVEY AND WOULD BE WILLING TO LISTEN TO VIETNAMESE VIEWS AND REPORT THEM BACK TO THE PRESIDENT. THUS SRV WILL BE FREE TO RAISE ANY ISSUE IT WISHES AT ANY TIME. US THEREFORE BELIEVES AN OPEN AGENDA WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE AND PRODUCTIVE UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES.

9. HOAN REPLIED THAT IF HE UNDERSTOOD, COMMISSION WOULD ONLY NOTE SRV POINT OF VIEW, AND HE WANTED TO KNOW HOW SRV COULD RAISE SUBJECTS OF IMPORTANCE TO IT FOR DISCUSSION. HE INDICATED AGENDA COULD BE DECIDED AT TIME OF ARRIVAL OF COMMISSION, AND THEN IT COULD BE DETERMINED HOW TO DISCUSS THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS OF THE US (MIAS) AND SRV (AID) AND HOW TO ENVISAGE THE CONVERSATIONS MIGHT PROCEED. HE ASKED WHETHER THEY COULD BE DISCUSSED IN PARALLEL, TO WHICH US REPS REPLIED THAT COMMISSION WOULD PARTICIPATE IN TALKS AS UNIFIED BODY AND PARALLEL TALKS DID NOT SEEM FEASIBLE. HOAN ASKED WHETHER ONE CAN EXPECT ANY AGREEMENT COULD BERESCHED BY THE COMMISSION OR WHETHER THE COMMISSION
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MUST REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT. GAMMON REPLIED THAT THE COMMISSION, WHICH WOULD LISTEN TO ALL SUBJECTS, WOULD REPORT DIRECTLY AND FAITHFULLY TO THE PRESIDENT. ROSENTHAL FOLLOWED BY REITERATING THAT PRESIDENT WILL TAKE COMMISSION'S VIEWS AND RESULTS OF TRIP INTO SERIOUS ACCOUNT.

10. HN SAID HE THEREFORE GATHERED THAT THE TASK OF THE COMMISSION WAS TO STUDY THE PROBLEM OF THE MIA, TO LISTEN TO PRINCIPAL SRV CONCERN (I.E. AID) AND TO ITS OTHER VIEWS AND TO PRESENT THEM TO THE PRESIDENT WITH ANY ADVICE IT CONSIDERS SUITABLE. IT WOULD BE ON THE BASIS OF THIS REPORT THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD THEN

CONSIDER ANY FURTHER ACTIONS. HE SAID THE VIETNAMESE SIDE WILL STUDY AND RESOLVE WITH GOOD WILL THE PROBLEMS OF THE MIA WHICH IS OF INTEREST TO THE US AND HOPED FOR A SIMILAR ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE US. IF THE TWO SIDES SHOW GOOD WILL AND MAKE COMMON EFFORTS, RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL IMPROVE. HOWEVER, IF THERE IS NO DESIRE ON THE PART OF ONE SIDE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THE OTHER SIDE, GOOD INTENTIONS WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT. HE SAID SRV UNDERSTANDS THE WISH OF THE USG TO SEARCH FOR INFORMATION ON THE MIAS ON THE SPOT AND TO VISIT GRAVESITES. HE REPEATED THAT THE VIETNAMESE SIDE IS READY TO STUDY AND RESOLVE WITH GOOD WILL THE PROBLEM OF THE MIAS.

11. HOAN SAID THAT THE PRINCIPAL ITEMS OF THE AGENDA SEEMED CLEAR AND THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO DECIDE ON THE SPOT ON THE CONTENT AND PROCEDURE OF THE CONVERSATIONS. IF THE US SIDE HAD ANY LATER VIEWS ON SUBJECTS IT WISHED TO RAISE, WE COULD INFORM THE SRV.

12. ROSENTHAL NOTED THAT IN ORDER TO BE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR, HE WISHED TO REITERATE THE COMMISSION'S PURPOSE AGAIN. NOMINATION OF THE COMMISSION REPRESENTS
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THE DEEP CONCERN OF THE PRESIDENT OVER MIAS AND HIS INTEREST IN NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED THE COMMISSION TO CONVEY HIS VIEWS ON THESE SUBJECTS TO THE SRV, TO RECEIVE MIA INFORMATION AND REMAINS AND TO LISTEN TO SRV VIEWS AND REPORT THEM BACK TO THE PRESIDENT FOR HIS CONSIDERATION. ROSENTHAL ADDED THAT COMMISSION WOULD PROBABLY COMMENT ON SRV VIEWS TO SEEK FURTHER CLARIFICATION IN ORDER TO ASSURE FULLY ACCURATE REPORTING BACK TO PRESIDENT.

13. HOAN HANDED OVER TO GAMMON THE LIST OF VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS WHO WOULD BE HOLDING TALKS WITH COMMISSION IN HANOI:

PHAN HIEN, VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
(CHIEF OF DELEGATION);
VO DONG GIANG, ASSISTANT AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AMBASSADOR;
NGUYEN XUAN, AMBASSADOR;
NGUYEN QUANG TAO, AMBASSADOR;
TRAN QUANG CO, DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS;
MRS. NGUYEN NGOC DUNG, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

14. AT THIS POINT BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT VARIOUS

TECHNICAL PROBLEMS NOT RESOLVED THIS DAY WOULD BE HANDLED BY LIAISON OFFICERS AT RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES IN PARIS. HOAN RAN THROUGH A LIST OF TECHNICAL MATTERS ON WHICH THEY WOULD APPRECIATE A US RESPONSE. HE NOTED SRV TECHNICAL LIMITATIONS AND SAID THEY WOULD BE PREPARED NONETHELESS TO SEND OUR ENCRYPTED MESSAGES VIA COMMERCIAL TELEGRAPH IF THIS WAS AGREEABLE TO US. IN ADDITION TO MEETING PHAM VAN DONG TO PRESENT LETTER, WOULD THERE BE ANYONE ELSE WHOM COMMISSION SPECIFICALLY SECRET

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WISHED TO SEE? HE ALSO ASKED IF THERE ARE ANY HISTORICAL SITES OR ANYTHING ELSE THE INDIVIDUAL COMMISSIONERS WISHED TO SEE, SINCE HE NOTED THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT MOST WERE VISITING VIETNAM. HE ALSO ASKED WHETHER THE COMMISSION WOULD WISH TO HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN HANOI. ROSENTHAL SAID HE WOULD REFER THESE MATTERS TO THE COMMISSION AND WOULD SEND REPLY THROUGH LIAISON OFFICER.

15. HOAN REITERATED WHAT HE HAD SAID AT THE BREAK ABOUT US PRESS GOING TO HANOI. HE SAID THAT IF THE US EMBASSY HERE WOULD MAKE A PROPOSAL FOR PERHAPS FIVE NEWSMEN, THEY WOULD CONSIDER PASSING IT ON TO HANOI.

16. MEETING CONCLUDED WITH STATEMENT BY TRAN HOAN THAT THE OFFICIAL PROGRAM WOULD BE DECIDED ON THE COMMISSION'S ARRIVAL IN HANOI. HE ASSURED US REPS THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD RECEIVE EXCELLENT TREATMENT DURING ITS VISIT AND WOULD BE VERY WELL RECEIVED.

17. US REPS THANKED HIM FOR THIS EXPRESSION OF WELCOME, WOULD CONVEY IT TO THE COMMISSION, AND INDICATED THAT THE COMMISSION WAS INDEED LOOKING FORWARD TO ITS VISIT.
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Review Withdrawn
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